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culation of THE DAILY BEE.

WHAT is to be done with Sitting

Bull? That is a conundrum which the

war department is trying to solve just

now.

MR. CONKLING has toned down a

good deal since his disastrous cam-

paign at Albany. Now that he knows

that this republic will survive the

shock caused by his retirement from

political dictatorship he is a little

more subdued.

VENOR's predictions for the next

six weeks, which we publish elsewhere,

are very encouraging. They fore-

shadow moderate weather, with only

one or two extremely hot days. It is

to be hoped that Mr. Venor has

guessed right this time.

THE Omaha papers that make sys-

tematic raids on merchants and ob-

tain money under false pretenses, by

gross falsification of their subscription

lists, are not very anxious to discuss

the circulation question with the Bee.

We fear our schools are not go-

ing to improve very much under

our new board of education. Instead

of increasing the efficiency of our

schools by weeding out the incompe-

tent teachers and encouraging the

most talented, the board has retained

the poorest and driven away some of

the most efficient teachers.

ST. LOUIS has expended several

millions on her water works, but still

she is planning more improvements.

A fair estimate of the capacity of the

present water works of St. Louis may

be had from the following figures:

There are two reservoir systems for

settling and storage. The four set-

tling basins have a capacity of eighteen

million gallons each, or a total of sev-

enty-two million gallons. The stor-

age reservoir covers an area of over

fourteen acres, with a capacity of fifty-

six million gallons.

Cincinnati, with one-third less popu-

lation, has storage reservoirs, with a

capacity of 105,000,000 gallons, or

nearly double those of St. Louis.

A RUMOR was set afloat at the state

capital last week to the effect that

the Burlington & Missouri had dis-

posed of their lease of the Atchison &

Nebraska railroad between Lincoln and

Falls City to Jay Gould, and taken in

exchange the St. Joe & Denver road

between Hastings and St. Joe. This

exchange, it was represented, would

enable Gould to operate the Missouri

Pacific over the Atchison and Nebras-

ka track to Lincoln and thence over

the Omaha and Republican Valley

branch to Omaha thus doing away

with the necessity of building the

proposed line from Omaha via Papil-

lion.

After diligent inquiry we have

reached the conclusion that this re-

port is unfounded, at least nobody in

authority connected with railway lines

in this city credits the story, and we

presume it is a canard.

The appearance of the army worm

in portions of Illinois and Iowa is

causing much alarm among farmers in

these states. This is not the first time,

however, that these voracious insects

have ravaged the prairie states of the

west. The Bloomington (Ill.) Pana-

graph relates the experience of Illi-

nois farmers during the invasion of

1857, as follows:

Capt. John Johnston, of Normal,

recalls the fact that in 1857 this sec-

tion of the country was visited by the

army worm in large numbers. They

injured the oats considerably, but did

little damage further than that. Capt.

Johnston noticed in the spring a patch

of meadow killed out on a farm he

DENVER AND OMAHA.

The returned editorial excursionists say that at Salt Lake they found only one Denver drummer to six from St. Joseph and seven from Omaha, to say nothing of dozens from Chicago, St. Louis and New York. Kansas City, strange to say, had no representation there and does not seem to be making any effort to secure Utah trade. But the fact that Omaha and St. Joseph are selling many times more goods than Denver in the territory was definitely ascertained, and is important. It is at once a humiliating reproach to the enterprise of Denver merchants and a cheering hint of the commercial possibilities that Utah offers to us. For no one can doubt that Denver, with her superior capital and superb location, can sell good to Utah at a profit if Omaha and St. Joseph can.—Denver Tribune.

No doubt that Denver capital is capable of great things but Omaha push and enterprise will always be a match for it. Denver has an extensive field for her capitalists to operate in, but it is mainly invested in the development of mines. In the wholesale trade, however, Omaha is way ahead and will continue to be ahead in the future. Omaha is much nearer the base of supplies than Denver, and she possesses superior facilities for the transportation of goods. With three railroads to Chicago, two to St. Louis and one to St. Paul her merchants can handle immense stocks and replenish them at all times. While Denver commands a very profitable mining trade Omaha merchants have a more extensive field to operate in. They command the trade of Western Iowa and Nebraska reach out through the territories traversed by the Union Pacific, and branch out into Idaho, Montana, and clear to the Pacific coast. When Denver completes her railroad lines into Utah she will get a share of Utah trade, but even then Omaha will not allow herself to be undersold. At no time in her history has the wholesale trade of Omaha been as active as it is today, and the fact that new wholesale houses are locating here and the established houses with their enlarged facilities are selling all the goods they can handle, warrants the belief that Omaha will soon outstrip all rivals west of Chicago and north of St. Louis as a wholesale market.

It is stated on the authority of a sound democrat from Springfield, that John W. Bookwalter, the democratic candidate for governor, went to Nebraska where he has a farm of six thousand acres, just before the October election last fall, and refused to come back to vote the state ticket, when votes were most in demand. He was telegraphed and urged, but he would not come. He voted for Greeley in 1872, and did not vote at all in 1876, but it was convenient for him to be home last November, and he cast his first democratic vote for Hancock. He is quite a new convert, and there will likely be quite a number of the old line democrats who will not go to the polls this fall.—[Columbus (O.) Correspondence Cincinnati Commercial.]

OUR FUTURE FOREIGN

POLICY.

Secretary Blaine is said to be preparing some very vigorous dispatches for the benefit of outsiders on our foreign policy. When made public they will give the European powers a better idea of the future policy of our government in dealing with questions affecting interests on this continent than they have ever possessed. The De Lesseps project for a canal across the isthmus of Panama will come in for a large share of consideration, so that whatever may be the result of the foreign conference on this question, with a view of making this commercial highway neutral property, the policy laid down by Secretary Blaine will give them a more radical interpretation of the Monroe doctrine than they ever had before.

The whole South American question will be considered, not in an aggressive spirit, but in favor of maintaining each separate nationality within the limits of its legitimate boundary. In other words the new American policy will pledge itself to the maintenance of things just as they are at present, and if any changes are likely to be deemed necessary this government proposes to dictate their character. If there is any absorbing to be done the United States promises to be on hand, and what they can't manage themselves outsiders need not trouble themselves about. The time has arrived when a policy of this kind can no longer be delayed. It is not only demanded by the plain teachings of our "Manifest Destiny" in a political sense, but by the growing necessities of our commerce, which, if not soon wrested from foreign control, will reduce us to what we are virtually at present—the weakest maritime power in the world. Secretary Blaine realizes this perhaps as keenly and as comprehensively as any public man in the country and it will be no fault of his if it is not remedied during his administration of our foreign affairs.

COMPLAINTS are made all over the west, particularly in Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa, that wire fences attract lightning, which often results in the killing of stock. The stock imagine that the fence affords protection from the storm and accordingly huddle close up to it. One instance is given where sixty-five head of sheep were killed in Nebraska at a single stroke, and another where ten head of cattle were killed. Some farmers think it would be profitable to do away with wire fencing altogether.—Kansas City Journal.

There is no doubt that wire fencing attracts lightning, and so do lightning rods and telegraph lines. But we doubt very much whether lightning attracted by wire fencing would be drawn from the fence-wire upon sheep or cattle unless they were leaning against or in direct contact with the fence, and had previously been drenched by rain. Lightning or electricity always seeks the best conductor and the shortest connection to the ground. Wire is a much better conductor than live stock;

hence lightning is more likely to strike a wire fence or a telegraph line than a flock of sheep or a herd of cattle. But when the lightning has once struck the wire fence its path will be to the ground by the nearest and shortest outlet. The wire is attached to fence posts, and these posts are sunk several feet in the ground, hence lightning nine times out of ten will seek the ground through this natural outlet. But if the farmers who use wire fencing want absolute protection from lightning there is an easy and cheap remedy. All they have to do is to attach pieces of wire to the fence posts every fifty or one hundred feet and sink the wire three or four feet into the ground. These ground wires will protect their fence posts as well as their cattle by drawing the surplus discharge of electricity into the ground. We still doubt the correctness of the reports about cattle or sheep being struck by lightning attracted by wire fences. Dead birds are frequently found in proximity to telegraph lines, and for years it was the general belief that these birds were killed by the electric fluid. The fact is that frequently birds, while flying strike telegraph wires with great force and drop down dead. Cattle and sheep, many have been killed by lightning in proximity to wire fences, but in all probability they would have been killed had the fence been constructed of wooden rails or boards.

It is stated on the authority of a sound democrat from Springfield, that John W. Bookwalter, the democratic candidate for governor, went to Nebraska where he has a farm of six thousand acres, just before the October election last fall, and refused to come back to vote the state ticket, when votes were most in demand. He was telegraphed and urged, but he would not come. He voted for Greeley in 1872, and did not vote at all in 1876, but it was convenient for him to be home last November, and he cast his first democratic vote for Hancock. He is quite a new convert, and there will likely be quite a number of the old line democrats who will not go to the polls this fall.—[Columbus (O.) Correspondence Cincinnati Commercial.]

Mr. BOOKWALTER's Nebraska farm embraces only 17,000 acres, but that trifling discrepancy will by no means let him out of skulking away from Ohio during a presidential election year. An Ohio man who would stay away from home at such a time is totally unfit for any office last of all for the governorship. In Nebraska such an Ohio man would be disfranchised—no matter how many 17,000 acre farms he owned.

The last legislature of Vermont enacted a tax law for the suppression of tax dodgers. This law has just been tested and proves to be a success in this important respect. The first fruits of the new assessment under this law is to increase the taxable basis from \$100,000,000 to \$163,391,000, an increase of a little more than \$63,000,000. If the next Nebraska legislature should follow the example of Vermont Omaha will have all the money she needs for improving her streets.

Ex-COMMISSIONER LeDuc estimates the shortage in the wheat crop of this country during the present year as compared with the crop of 1880 at 140,000,000 bushels. Had LeDuc been retained at the head of the national seed bureau this great falling off might have been averted.

Public Opinion.

The country, and especially the republican party, is well rid of the tedious struggle; but it ended in farce, as it began in mock melodrama by the resignation of the two senators, who threw down their commissions in order to get a sensational vindication, and immediately posted off to Albany to lobby like a pair of common office-seekers in behalf of their own re-election. As it began with a transparent piece of bluff, it has ended with a transparent piece of hocus-pocus. According to the Conkling men, the half breeds at last consented to hold a regular caucus, and, that being done, they, the Conkling men, yielded cheerfully to the will of the majority, as pre-eminently loyal republicans like themselves ought to do; had the half-breeds held a regular caucus, and, the other of the last two months might have been saved. According to the half-breeds, there was no caucus, except the one which nominated Messrs. Miller and Lapham without the presence of a single Conkling man, and at last the Conkling men gave up, completely beaten.

By their ultimate support of Mr. Lapham the Conkling men have probably saved their standing in the party, which their long opposition to the majority, threatening as it did the success of the party at the polls this fall, and the party's control of the senate had done much to endanger. What effect the solution of the difficulty by Mr. Lapham's election will have on Mr. Conkling's political career is a complex problem. He is a man of many resources, but he has achieved power, not as the representative of a principle dear to the people, and only in a secondary sense by his personal popularity. It was the control of the federal patronage in the state of New York that made him loom up into what the unthinking call a great statesman, albeit he left untouched all the great problems of statesmanship. What he can do when he has no patronage and no prospect of getting any, it will be interesting to observe. He has the rare quality of leadership, and he is an imposing, though turgid, orator. It is

not at all likely that he will long remain out of politics, but the attempt it is reported he will make to become the favorite of the sunny southland, in view of his long record and his one speech of the last campaign, would be as amusing a piece of lofty tumbling in politics as his appearance as a leader of the anti-monopoly crusade would be.

Chicago Tribune.

When Conkling resigned he took the state by surprise; but when he announced his intention to seek a reelection as an independent senator for the purpose of antagonizing the president the people of New York were first filled with amazement and then with indignation. Nine-tenths of the citizens of his own party were imbued with the conviction that he was an unfit person to represent that state in the senate. It was felt that a man who could do what he had done, who had left the state without representation in the senate, who had abandoned the United States senate to the opposition, not because of any principle, but solely from selfish anger at the president, had proved his essential unfitness for a position which requires self-command and proper respect for the constitutional rights of the executive. But Conkling affected to suppose that the universal condemnation of his course was a mere artifice of the newspapers, and he stuck to this absurd view to the end. It was not the words only of the united party of the state of New York which he heard, but also of the indignant voice of the people.

Conkling's first mistake was in attempting to "bulldoze" the president and senate about the control of an office; his next, and still greater, was in resigning when he could not "boss" the whole government; and his third and greatest error was in being a candidate for reelection under such circumstances.

If he had said to his constituents that he had quarreled with the president and could no longer act in harmony with him, and that he had made a vacancy which he desired them to fill by selecting some person who would be in accord with the administration, the people, while regretting his unbecomingly selfish conduct, would have forgiven him, and if he behaved himself while out of office would have soon restored him to public life.

New York, influenced by peculiar motives and considerations, strange hitherto to our politics, refuses to sustain her old senator, and Mr. Conkling retires to private life. The Inter-Ocean has no sort of doubt but that a great mistake has been committed, but New York must choose its senators for itself, and if that state does not feel honored by having represented by such a man as Mr. Conkling, republicans elsewhere may wonder, but must submit. That he will be missed hereafter seriously, keenly, there can be scarcely a doubt. That republicans, now so glad to rid the party of his official presence, will see the day when they will wish he stood once more in the senate, matelasse and peerless, to defend republican principles, is anything but a possibility in the future well can be but for the time being he is relegated to the rear, and there, bigger in his retirement than his assaults wrapped in the panoply of office, he must remain until awakened justice calmly hears his story and grants him that boon of fair play that has now been denied him.

Peoria (Ill.) Transcript: If the people of western Missouri do not desire to see their state invaded by a horde of lawless robbers they will be as zealous as the people of Minnesota were to stamp out these murderous thugs. Des Moines (Ia.) Register: Let us seek even the good side of the bad, and be thankful for it. Earner Wilson, of the Traer Clipper, says that the continued heavy rains in Iowa have saved the wheat from the chinch bug, and that nothing else would have done it. It is all right, they suppose. Only we do think that Providence might have drawn out as small things as the chinch-bugs with a little less water. At least men who are building railroads could easily think that it might.

Davenport (Ia.) Gazette: Ever and anon a New York politician comes west and is elected to an important position, vide Charles Van Wyck, now United States Senator from Nebraska. But never in all the long vista of the future will any one of the twenty-eight to thirty-two Conkling men, of the New York assembly, see the spot in the west at which political death will not meet them on the instant, should one shall have his name labeled, "He voted for Conkling in the war against the Garfield administration." Make a note of the prophecy.

Nashville Banner (dem.): Among the names often mentioned in the telegrams in connection with the shooting of President Garfield were have met with a kinder reception than that of James G. Blaine, of Maine. Blaine while a member of the senate and still more while a member of the house stood in bad odor with the south. He was combative in the extreme, and was content in a row with one another of the southern representatives, and the southern press, sympathizing with their own people, poured a constant stream of abuse upon the member from the Pine Woods. The first indication Blaine gave of a patriotic feeling was on a visit to Richmond, where he fascinated everyone who came in personal contact with him. Then just before and during the Chicago convention Blaine took arms for the whole country against the aggressive tendencies of the Grantites, and nobly did he battle against the dark powers of third-termism and consolidation. Like Samson of old, finding he could not escape from the powers, he, by a giant effort, brought the temple down on his devoted head, crushing his enemies and his own hope at one blow. This action disarmed all his southern opponents. He convinced every one that he had a country, and that party could not make him forget it.

Rochester Democrat: The election of Elbridge G. Lapham was received here with jubilation on all sides. Mr. Lapham lives but thirty miles from this city, and is well known here as one of the ablest lawyers in this section. His election is, therefore, as much one of gratification to person-

al feelings as it is a sense of relief that the deadlock at Albany has been broken. The stalwarts are reticent. The democrats simply smile. The Democrat and Chronicle, a Garfield organ, says: "The election of Mr. Lapham will give general satisfaction, and will be especially gratifying to the people of western New York, where he has so long been known and honored as a citizen. Mr. Lapham has had abundant legislative experience, and is otherwise well qualified for the senatorship. Mr. Lapham goes to the senate wholly untrammelled. He was nominated by the republicans who had not hitherto supported some of his political ideas, and finally received the support of those with whom he had formerly affiliated. The cordial union in his support places him on neutral ground, a representative of the whole party."

Revised Predictions.

By Henry S. Venor.

JULY, 1881.

The following detailed predictions must be used generously. Take rather the general features for the quarters of months than for the respective dates themselves:

26. Tuesday. Heavy rain storms and wind.
27. Cloudy and cooler weather, with 28. cold nights and cold showers.
29. Cool and showery.
30. Warner and high winds and 31. rain storms.

AUGUST, 1881.

1. Probably warm and oppressive.
2. Generally pleasant weather, 3. with fairly warm days and 4. cool to cold days, and fall-like 5. evenings and nights.
6. Fair and pleasant.
7. Sunday—heat and storms.
8. Sultry weather, with heavy 9. showers—cooler evenings and nights.
10. Ditto.
11. Heat again in the United States, 12. with cloudy and sultry weather, 13. with storms in Canada.
14. Sunday—cooler—change.
15. Cooler to cold, and cloudy and pleasant.
16. Storms through portions of Virginia.
17. Hail storms and frosts.
18. Probably in some sections.
19. Heat and storms.
20. Ditto.
21. Sunday—Sultry and showery.
22. Sultry and windy.
23. Heat and wind.
24. Ditto.
25. Heavy storms on the lakes, St.
26. Lawrence and around New York.
27. Cooler weather, with 28. Sunday—rains and frosts in 29. northern sections.
30. Fair and pleasant, with cool eve-
31. nings and nights, with indications of returning heat.

PERSONALITIES

Sitting Bull appears to have finally

seated himself.

Biennet's health is bad at Ems, but

better at Kissingen.

Readjuster Mahone now meets his work-

ers at Old Point Comfort.

Jeff Davis quietly observes that Bob

Woods, the circuit being formed

truthful in what he says.

Alexandra has stopped inviting the pro-

fessional beauties to her reception during

the present season.

Senator Warner Miller is a tall man

with a good carriage, blue eyes, a pleasant

face, and an agreeable voice.

Mr. Wm. H. Vanderbilt has an income

of \$7,000,000 or \$8,000,000 a year and

necessarily has to invest in something.

Lord Colin Campbell is to be congratulated

on his recent marriage to Miss Blood.

It seems that the lady is no relation to

Victoria Woodhull.

Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe is to be

seen quite often in the streets of Wa-

shington and Baltimore, Maine. She is passing

the summer near Old Orchard.

Senator Butler of South Carolina threatens

to resign some time ago. He hasn't

done it yet, and probably won't now.

Canada papers say Lord Lorne is taking

unusual precautions for personal safety

when he travels. The poor fellow thinks

he is a president or something of that sort.

At Des Moines Jennie Hyland asks for

a divorce from her husband Mark Hyland,

because of cruel and inhuman treatment.

The suspicious feature of the case is